

9.0.0 MEDICAID EXTENSIONS

9.1.0 Introduction

A Medicaid extension is a period of Medicaid eligibility given to an AFDC-Medicaid recipient beyond the time when AFDC-Medicaid closes.

The Medicaid extension lasts 12 months. In some instances, where child support money is involved, the extension may last only 4 months (9.6.1).

Extensions belong to individuals, not to groups. An individual whose AFDC-Medicaid closes for 1 or more of the extension reasons (9.3.0) receives an extension. Give him/her the extension even if the rest of the AFDC-Medicaid AG doesn't close.

9.2.0 Requirements

To receive a Medicaid extension, a person must meet 2 requirements:

1. His/her AFDC-Medicaid closure must be due solely to 1 or more of the extension reasons (9.3.0) listed below.
2. S/he must be an AFDC-Medicaid recipient at the time AFDC-Medicaid closes (9.4.0).

9.3.0 Extension Reasons

For a 12 month Medicaid extension, the AFDC-Medicaid closure must be due **solely** to 1 or more of the following reasons:

1. The \$30+1/3 disregard ended.
2. The \$30 disregard ended.
3. Increased hours of employment.
4. Increased earnings.
5. Increased earnings along with other income (changed or unchanged).

At least 1 member of the AG must have:

Received AFDC-Medicaid for at least 3 of the 6 months immediately preceding the month in which AFDC-Medicaid was discontinued.

At least 1 of the 3 months of AFDC-Medicaid benefits must be Wisconsin AFDC-Medicaid benefits.

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9.3.0 Extension Reasons

Example. Earl moved his family from Arkansas to Wisconsin in April. The family applied for AFDC-Medicaid in Wisconsin and became eligible for Wisconsin AFDC-Medicaid on April 16. One month afterward, Earl got a job. AFDC-Medicaid closed because of his increased earnings. The family is eligible for a 12 month extension because 2 months of AFDC-Medicaid in Arkansas in the last 6 months count toward the total of 3 months of AFDC-Medicaid in the last 6 months.

Closure reasons 3, 4, & 5 require that at least one member of the AG be employed throughout the 12 month extension. If s/he loses employment, end the extension, unless the loss of employment is **temporary**. Temporary loss of employment occurs for reasons such as equipment breakdowns, slack periods, weather restrictions, fire, and retooling of work areas. The worker is laid off for a definite period of time, or for an unspecified period, but the employer states s/he will be called back to work eventually.

9.3.1 Sole Reason

An AFDC-Medicaid AG receives a Medicaid extension when the **sole** AFDC-Medicaid closure reason is 1 or more of the extension reasons listed (9.3.0).

No other closure reason can accompany the extension reason. If an extension reason is accompanied by a nonfinancial closure reason or by an excess assets closure reason, there is no extension.

Example. Marvin was an AFDC-Medicaid recipient. On July 15 he reported to his ESS that he had received \$5,000 from the sale of property which he had owned jointly with his uncle. He also reported that he had recently obtained a job and was now working 40 hours a week. When Marvin's AFDC-Medicaid closes, he will not receive an extension because the increased hours of employment is not the sole reason for the AFDC-Medicaid closure.

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9.3.1 Sole Reason (cont.)

At the end of the month, before the effective date of closure, if all closure reasons have disappeared except the extension reason, give the extension.

Example. In the last week of July, Marvin reported to his ESS that he had purchased a computer and other personal items, and had less than \$900 left from the original \$5000. Marvin can now receive an extension because, before the effective date of his AFDC-Medicaid closure, the only closure reasons remaining are the increased hours of employment and increased earned income.

9.4.0 Must Be A Recipient

To receive an extension, the person must be an AFDC-Medicaid recipient at the time the extension reason occurs.

Example. Denny, an absent parent, returns to the household. On a retest of the AFDC-Medicaid AG, Denny's hours of employment and earned income close AFDC-Medicaid. The recipients at the time of closure receive a 12-month Medicaid extension. Denny does not because he was not an AFDC-Medicaid recipient. The extension continues as long as Denny, or another member of the last tested AFDC-Medicaid AG, is employed.

Example. Maurice was under an AFDC-Medicaid sanction. When the sanction ended, the new AFDC-Medicaid AG, with Maurice as a member, was tested. It failed because of Maurice's increased hours of employment and increased earned income. Maurice does not receive the extension because he was not an AFDC-Medicaid recipient at the time AFDC-Medicaid closed.

Example. George and his 2 children are AFDC-Medicaid recipients. George's oldest child turns age 19. George's earned income and assigned child support are now too high for an AG of 2. AFDC-Medicaid closes. George and both children receive the extension because all were AFDC-Medicaid recipients at the time AFDC-Medicaid closed.

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9.4.1 SSI Exception

A person who was eligible for both AFDC-Medicaid and SSI and who chose to receive SSI benefits instead of AFDC-Medicaid benefits, may be eligible for a Medicaid extension if s/he loses SSI.

Example. Mary is eligible for AFDC-Medicaid because she is the caretaker of 2 deprived children. She is eligible also for SSI because of a disability. She chose to receive SSI instead of AFDC-Medicaid. Her 2 children are AFDC-Medicaid recipients. Mary got a job. Her earnings put her above the SSI income limit. She then joined her children's AFDC-Medicaid AG. Her earned income caused AFDC-Medicaid to close. Both Mary and her 2 children are eligible for a Medicaid extension.

9.5.0 Extensions for Pregnancy AGs

A pregnant woman who is eligible for Medicaid/Healthy Start stays eligible for:

1. The balance of the pregnancy, and
2. An additional 60 days after the last day of pregnancy through the end of the month in which the 60th day occurs.

The decision on her eligibility need not be made prior to termination of pregnancy, but the application **must** be before. A presumptive eligibility application does not meet this application test.

9.6.0 Child Support Income

If an AFDC-Medicaid recipient becomes ineligible for AFDC-Medicaid solely for excess income, and all or part of the excess income consists of child support collections, grant an extension of either 4 or 12 months.

9.6.1 Four Months

The 4 month child support extension applies only if at least 1 member of the former AFDC-Medicaid group has received AFDC-Medicaid for at least 3 of the 6 months immediately preceding the month in which AFDC-Medicaid was discontinued.

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9.6.1 Four Months (cont.)

Give the four-month child support extension when all three of the following exist:

1. Excess income.
2. Child support income (changed or unchanged).
3. No increase in earned income.

9.6.2 Twelve Months

Give a twelve-month extension to an AG with:

1. Increased earned income and child support collections that don't increase, **or**
2. Increased earned income and increased child support collections.

9.7.0 Multiple Extensions

During an extension, a group or individual may become eligible for AFDC-Medicaid and then, for one of the reasons listed (9.2.0) become ineligible again and earn another extension. When more than one extension applies at the same time, choose the extension which gives the longest coverage, and cancel the other.

Example. A former AFDC-Medicaid group with a twelve-month extension comes back on AFDC-Medicaid. The extension continues to run while the group is on AFDC-Medicaid. In the tenth month of the twelve-month extension the group goes off AFDC-Medicaid again and qualifies for a four-month child support extension. Apply the new four-month extension because it gives the longest coverage. Cancel the remaining two months of the twelve-month extension.

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9.7.0 Multiple Extensions (cont.)

Determine what extensions each person in the AFDC-Medicaid group has, and apply any new extension accordingly.

Example. Two persons in the current AFDC-Medicaid group earned a twelve-month extension from membership in a previous group. The current group now goes off AFDC-Medicaid and earns a four-month child support month extension. The two persons with twelve-month extensions are entitled to retain them if this results in a longer period of Medicaid coverage for them than the new four-month extension would.

9.8.0 Inter-Agency Transfers

When a person who is on a Medicaid extension moves to another county or tribal area, transfer the case to the new agency. The agency that the client reports the move to must collect information about the changes, for example, the new address. If the agency does not have sufficient information about the changed circumstances, it must request information from the client, according to the Medicaid verification policy (37.0.0).

CARES will automatically set a review date for one month after the transfer. Correct the review date in CARES, so that it is the end of certification period. Run eligibility in CARES.

Example. Jules is on an extension that expires March 31, 2001. He moves from Waupaca County to Vilas County in January 2001. Waupaca County must transfer Jules' case to Vilas County. Vilas County corrects Jules' review date to March 31, 2001.

9.9.0 Losing an Extension

An extension recipient loses an extension if one or more of following happens:

1. S/he fails to cooperate in providing third party health insurance coverage (TPL). Minors and dependent 18 year olds are exempt from any penalty for not cooperating with this requirement.
2. S/he fails to cooperate with medical support liability requirements (38.1 and 7.1.0). Pregnant women, minors, and dependent 18 year olds are exempt from any penalty for not cooperating with this requirement.
3. S/he loses employment when the extension requires that someone in the group remain employed.

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9.9.0 Losing an Extension (cont.)

If a condition necessary for an extension is lost, the extension is not regained solely by recovering the lost condition.

Example. A group has an extension that requires someone in the group to remain employed. Since no one in the group is currently employed, the extension is lost. The group does not regain the extension if someone goes back to work.

9.9.1 Leaving Wisconsin

If a Wisconsin extension recipient moves out of state, s/he loses the extension. S/he can regain the extension if s/he returns and becomes a Wisconsin resident again.

Example. Earl, a Wisconsin resident, received a 12-month extension beginning January 1, 1999. He moved out of state, thus losing his extension. On May 1, 1999, he moved back to Wisconsin and became a Wisconsin resident again. He regained the extension at the time he moved back to Wisconsin and became a Wisconsin resident.

If the time period of the extension expires while the person is out of state, s/he does not regain the extension.

Example. Gloria, a Wisconsin resident received a 12-month extension beginning January 1, 1999. She moved out of state, thus losing her extension. In February 2000, she moved back to Wisconsin and became a Wisconsin resident again. She does not regain the extension because the time period has expired.